

LA CENTER BULLETIN

BE IN THE KNOW WITH THE CITY CLOSE TO NATURE



ONTO NEW ADVENTURES

"The greatest adventure is what lies ahead." - J.R.R. Tolkien

The City of La Center would like to congratulate Public Works Maintenance Worker, Dave Pettit on his retirement after 18 years of service with the city.

Dave first joined the city in March 2007 after working for the La Center School District as a lead grounds maintenance employee.

Dave's dedication to the city of La Center is unlike no other. He regularly attends city events and is very involved in the La Center community. Outside of work, Dave is an avid hiker - he climbs mountains, backpacks, and travels cross country. He is also a pickleball aficionado.

The city is extremely grateful to have had the pleasure of working with Dave for the last 18 years. Dave's favorite La Center memory was assisting in the development of the La Center Lewis River Beachside Park under the La Center Bridge. He said at the time of building, about 10 years ago, the Public Works team placed 14 boulders for parking spots. There are now over 40! Once the sun comes out, every spot is occupied with kayakers, paddleboarders, and water enjoyers alike.

His favorite part about working for La Center Public Works is the variety of projects and tasks he has assisted with in his 18 years. He also emphasized that his co-workers were one of the best parts about his position.

Dave is most looking forward to traveling in his van and playing pickleball. He already has an Alaskan cruise planned for this summer! When he isn't traveling, he will be helping his daughter run their wed-

ding venue business, The Speakeasy on Alder Lane.

We are excited for the new chapter ahead for Dave and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors and adventures, wherever life may lead!

BACK TO SCHOOL!

School is back in session!

As students begin their transition back to school, it is a reminder of the importance of safety. Back-to-school season brings increased traffic both on foot and in vehicles. It's important as a community we remain extra vigilant of crosswalks and bus stops especially around schools in the mornings and afternoons. Keep an eye out for crossing guards assisting in allowing people to cross safely during school hours.

One of the most important steps in keeping our community safe is to follow reduced speeds in designated school zones. In the mornings and afternoons, the speed limit is 20 miles per hour in a school zone. Clark County Sheriff's Office will be conducting extra patrols through school zones to make sure speeds do not exceed 20mph.

"It is a community effort to make sure students make it to school safely. The sheriff's office does an excellent job of holding drivers accountable who could be putting children in danger." - Mayor Tom Strobehn

Washington State law also requires vehicles stop for a school bus when its red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, regardless of the direction you're traveling, unless there is a median. You must remain stopped until the stop arm is withdrawn and the bus resumes motion. Yellow flashing lights means the bus is preparing to stop, you should slow down and be ready to stop.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT IN LA CENTER

Another successful National Night Out in the books for La Center! It was an evening full of fun featuring the La Center Lions jail, live music from Chasing Ebenezer, vehicles from Clark County Sheriff's Office, Cowlitz Indian Tribal Police, Clark-Cowlitz Fire Rescue, and even C-Tran's 1776 transit bus was there! Attendees also had the opportunity to dunk CCSO Chief Phil Sample, and CCFR CARES Program Manager Sam Lewis. There were hot dogs and drinks from our sponsors at Rosauers and PepsiCo, as well as chips and root beer floats from the La Center Lions.

National Night Out is not only an evening of fun with first responders and police, but it reminds us of what it means to have their presence in our city to keep us safe. Our relationship with our sheriff's deputies in town has never been stronger thanks to the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Chief Phil Sample and his deputies have made a lasting impact on this community, that we will always honor. The Clark Cowlitz Fire Rescue and the Cowlitz Indian Tribal Police put their lives on the line every day to keep our community safe. Behind the scenes, agencies like the Clark Regional Emergency Services Agency (CRESA) are extremely crucial in the first line of communication during an emergency. We are thankful for their commitment to public safety.

Mark your calendars for National Night Out 2026 at Holley Park on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Have feedback on how we can improve our events? Are there events you would like to see in La Center? Send them to our Outreach Coordinator, Hannah Shields at hshields@ci.lacenter.wa.us

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CODE ENFORCEMENT: DID YOU KNOW?

Code enforcement ensures compliance with local regulations related to zoning, property maintenance, nuisances, and violations of city ordinances.

Residents are encouraged to speak directly with their neighbors if there is a problem. If you are unable to resolve the issue, La Center operates a complaint-based code enforcement system. This means that when a citizen files a complaint, the city will investigate. If a violation is found, the property owner will receive a notice detailing the violation, the necessary corrections, and a deadline for compliance. It's important to understand that most violations cannot be resolved overnight. Property owners may have extenuating circumstances that prevent them from addressing issues promptly.

To file a complaint, provide the address of the property in question and a description of the problem. Uploading photographs or video recordings can be very helpful. You can file your complaint online using our new system through CloudPermit.

WELCOME PLANNING COMMISSIONER JOSH SOSKE!

At the regular city council meeting on July 23, 2025, Mayor Tom Strobehn appointed La Center resident Josh Soske as the city's newest planning commissioner. Josh has served the city of La Center as an active volunteer for over 20 years as a member of the La Center Education Foundation, La Center Little League, La Center United, La Center Christmas Festival and Our Days event committees. Josh also assisted in bringing the construction of the La Center High School stadium to life. In his day-to-day he works as an independent engineer. We are excited to welcome Josh to the City of La Center Planning Commission and are hopeful of his valuable insight in planning the future of La Center.

ADA TRANSITION PLAN ADOPTION

The ADA transition plan was accepted and adopted by the La Center City Council on August 27, 2025. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) remains committed to providing equitable access to Washing-

ton's multimodal transportation system, which includes users with disabilities.

The implementation of this plan will help the city in delineating areas that need improvement and allow for an orderly planning process to improve access. The plan reviewed access along pedestrian routes including roadways, parks, and city buildings. The ADA Transition Plan will be used as an instrumental piece in planning for the future of La Center.

HONORING THE 20TH LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION

In honor of their commitment to the city of La Center, the city will be hosting a celebration of the 20th Legislative Delegation at the Wheel Club Community Center on Tuesday, September 16 at 10:30 a.m.

It was with the support of Senator John Braun, Representative Peter Abbarno and Representative Ed Orcutt that the city was able to secure grant funding to remodel the Wheel Club Community Center and pass House Bill 1039 which will allow the city to provide sewer service to the Cowlitz Tribe. Please join us on Tuesday, September 16 to thank them for their support.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

City Council Retreat

Saturday, September 6
9:00 a.m.
La Center City Hall

Honoring the 20th Legislative Delegation

Tuesday, September 16
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Wheel Club Community Center

Blood Drive

Thursday, October 2
11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
La Center City Hall
RedCrossBlood.org/Donate

La Center Christmas Festival

Sunday, December 7
12:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
4th Street
Live music, Santa Claus, tree lighting,
fireworks, vendors, and more!

La Center Historical Museum

1st & 3rd Saturday
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m..
410 West 5th St, La Center, WA

American Legion Post 189

2nd Thursday of the month
7:00 p.m.
La Center Church

Visit the Civic Web
lacentercivicweb.net/portal

City Council Meetings

September 10 & 24	Office Closures
October 8 & 22	November 11
November 12 & 26	November 27 & 28